

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 EPA-04 TRSE-00
NSF-02 HEW-06 CEQ-01 /041 R

DRAFTED BY COM/ BIEPR/OCA/EUR/DNORMAN:KG
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:B.LONG
COM/BIEPR/OCA/EUR/ADAUMAN
OM/OPS/JWILLIAMS (SUBSTANCE)
EPA/KFEITH (SUBSTANCE)
TATE/EUR/RPE/RLAMENTIA

-----056311 022103Z /73

R 021922Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DIRECTIVE ON AIR COMPRESSOR NOISE
EMISSIONS

1. THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED DIRECTIVE (COM (78) 121 FINAL)
OF MARCH 22, 1978 WOULD ESTABLISH COMMUNITY-WIDE NOISE
LEVEL STANDARDS FOR AIR COMPRESSORS. THE U.S. COMPRESSED
AIR AND GAS INSTITUTE (CAGI) HAS CONTACTED USDOC TO EXPRESS
ITS CONCERN WITH THE PROPOSAL'S ADVERSE EFFECTS ON U.S.
EXPORTS. THE PROPOSED STANDARDS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE
STRINGENT THAN EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
(EPA) LEVELS, AND THE INSTITUTE FEELS SUCH A DIVERGENCE
WOULD BE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO U.S. EXPORTS. U.S. FIRMS
EXPORTED \$6.2 MILLION WORTH OF THESE COMPRESSORS TO THE EC
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IN 1977.

2. THE MISSION SHOULD RAISE THIS PROBLEM WITH THE COMMIS-
SION AND SHOULD REQUEST THAT THE COMMISSION CONSIDER THE
FOLLOWING CAGI-SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE:

A. THE COMMISSION'S SOUND POWER LEVELS LISTED IN ARTICLE

4 OF THE EC PROPOSED DIRECTIVE, EFFECTIVE TO DEC. 31, 1983,

SHOULD BE CHANGED TO LEVELS MORE COMMENSURATE WITH EPA STANDARDS. THOSE MORE COMPATIBLE LEVELS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1 TO 5 M/MIN.-----102 DBA
5 TO 10 M/MIN.-----103 DBA
ABOVE 10 M/MIN.-----106 DBA

OR ALTERNATEIVELY,

1 TO 10 M/MIN.-----102 DBA
ABOVE 10 M/MIN.-----106 DBA

B. PROPOSED FUTURE SOUND POWER LEVELS LISTED IN THE TABLE IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE, EFFECTIVE AFTER JAN. 1, 1983 SHOULD BE DELETED.

3. CAGI SUSTAINS THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE FOLLOWING RATIONALE. IF 2 (A) WERE ADOPTED, EC SOUND POWER LEVELS WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS IN THE EPA NOISE EMISSION STANDARD FOR PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS. ARTICLE 4'S SECOND-STAGE NOISE STANDARDS, TO BE EFFECTIVE AFTER JAN. 1, 1983, OUGHT TO BE DELETED BECAUSE COMPLIANCE WITH COMPATIBLE EPA AND EC SOUND LEVELS WOULD MAKE PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSORS AMONG THE QUIETEST MACHINERY ON CONSTRUC-
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TION SITES, AND FURTHER REDUCTION TO THE PROPOSED JAN. 1, 1983 LEVELS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY UNTIL OTHER MACHINES HAD BEEN SIMILARLY REDUCED. FURTHERMORE, EPA HAS NO INTENTION, AT THIS TIME, OF REDUCING PERMISSIBLE LEVELS 5 DB BELOW THE CURRENT STANDARD. SUCH REDUCTION COULD ALWAYS BE EFFECTED AT A LATER DATE IF THE STATE OF THE ART IMPROVES AND IF FURTHER NOISE REDUCTION IS ENVIRONMENTALLY NECESSARY AND FEASIBLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, NOISE POLLUTION, STANDARDS, NOISE ABATEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE140093
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-1081
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806101/aaaadivp.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d0c777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2139650
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED DIRECTIVE ON AIR COMPRESSOR NOISE EMISSIONS
TAGS: SENV, BE, EPA, CAGI
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d0c777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014